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GDR REICHSBAHN SCHOLARSHIPS

An announcement by the Directorate General of the German Reichsbahn, dated 1 June 1951, deals with scholarship contracts concluded between the Reichsbahn and university students or railroad trade students.

To create trained manpower reserves, the Reichsbahn, like the people-owned enterprises, grants scholarships to activists and other deserving employees who combine capability, outstanding performance, and political reliability.

Contracts with university students are concluded by the Directorate General; with trade students, by the Reichsbahn directorates concerned. No contract will be concluded so long as the student attends a specified preuniversity school (A- und B-Fakultaet) because at that time it cannot yet be ascertained which field of study the student will choose later at the university. Upon approval by the Directorate General, these students will be granted the necessary stipends and they will then be delegated to the preuniversity school.

The contract obligates the receiver of the scholarship to study a specified field at a university or trade school to be designated by the Reichsbahn, and to take the final examination; take up residence at the location of the school, unless he is assigned to a school with dormitory; furnish the Reichsbahn with documentary evidence of the status and progress of his studies at the end of each term, including a report by the Free German Youth group at the school regarding his social-political development; work curing part of his vacation for the Reichsbahn in a position connected with his studies; enter Reichsbahn employment after completion of his studies first as trainee, and to remain with the Reichsbahn for at least 3 years. In the past, similar contracts specified a minimum of 10 years, but this term was shortened by the decree of the Directorate General, dated 1 June 1951.

The contract, on the other hand, obligates the Reichsbahn to pay stipends in the amount specified in wage contracts; assist the student in his studies, in particular to make available to him Reichsbahn installations, libraries, etc., and to watch over his personal and school interests; coordinate the vacation activity of the student at the Reichsbahn with the school so as to

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ensure its correspondence with the student's field of study, and to reimburse the student for his vacation work at the rate of the first year's training; credit the student's vacation work to his corresponding training periods and also take into account any preschool work for the Reichsbahn.

If the scholarship receiver leaves the employment of the Reichsbahn during his studies or during the 3-year period thereafter without the approval of the Directorate General, the Reichsbahn will request restitution of the stipends paid if the employee enters a private enterprise, but will forego restitution claims if the employee enters a people-owned enterprise and has obtained approval of the Directorate General prior to separation. The Reichsbahn may request part or full restitution if the employee leaves for other reasons. The decision is made by the Directorate General in consultation with the trade union, taking into consideration the merits of the individual case.

The Directorate General, in consultation with the trade union, has the right to cancel the contract immediately if the student grossly violates the school rules, displays an undemocratic attitude, or fails an examination.

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